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University of Montana

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MEDIA RELEASE

February 4, 1988

VORHAUER GIVES \$50,000 TO UM LIBRARY

MISSOULA --

University of Montana Foundation Board Member Bruce Vorhauer made a \$50,000 gift Thursday to the UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library.

Vorhauer, former chairman of VLI Corp. and inventor of the contraceptive sponge, designated the gift in two parts: \$25,000 to establish the Sara Wright Library Endowment and \$25,000 to help the library deal with a funding crisis brought on by rampant inflation in the cost of journal subscriptions.

The endowment, commemorating Vorhauer's fiance who was killed in an auto accident, will help preserve archival materials, particularly those chronicling Montana's Indian tribes. The endowment will also allow the library to help tribal community colleges preserve their materials and develop oral histories.

The UM archives include historical photographs of the Flathead, Blackfeet and Crow and oral histories documenting Indian practices like the use of native plants.

The gift will also improve scholar's access to archival papers and manuscripts, including those of Duncan McDonald, Frank

- more -

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B. Linderman, Joseph Dixon, and Sen.s James Murray and Mike Mansfield.

Library Dean Ruth Patrick termed the other \$25,000 of Vorhauer's gift "emergency aid." She said increasing costs of journals and other serial publications will leave the library budget short \$100,000 in 1988-89, a deficit that would require canceling about 800 titles. Vorhauer's gift will save 200 of those subscriptions for one year.

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